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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 418
By Bowers

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mr. Gerald L. Crowder.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember those Tennesseans who, during their lifetimes, served their fellow citizens with the utmost integrity, dedication and ability; and

WHEREAS, the late Gerald L. Crowder, former president and chief operating officer of Advanced Medical Financial Services, was certainly one such exemplary public servant; and

WHEREAS, it was truly a sad day for all those who had the distinct privilege of knowing Gerald Crowder, when he passed on; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Crowder was an entrepreneur for more than 25 years, as well as the Founder of Handi Photo, Incorporated, where he had the distinction of serving as its first president; and

WHEREAS, Handi Photo became the 3rd largest retail photo finishing company in the country; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Crowder co-founded a chain of regional restaurants that were sold to Dobbs House International; he also established Architectural Structures, a modular building company that produced in-plant offices, 24-hour bank buildings, and a variety of kiosks; and

WHEREAS, Gerald Crowder achieved many more entrepreneurial milestones during his illustrious career, which are too numerous to mention all of which were the result of his commitment to hard work and high achievement; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Crowder served as Assistant to Mayor Wyeth Chandler for six years, and twice received the honor of "Outstanding Young Man of Memphis"; and

WHEREAS, Gerald Crowder was appointed by Governor Don Sundquist to the Long-Term Care Advisory Council for the State of Tennessee; he served as liaison between the Governor's Commission, and the Tennessee General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, what follows is an excerpt from a prayer this pious gentleman wrote on July 31st, 1998:***There has to be a prayer-***

For the ones whose life mate has gone before them,

For those the world has beaten down and ridiculed,

And the ones who are known only by the number on the door of their nursing home room,

For the tortured souls whose lives are lived in

Fragments of memories forgotten

And the loved ones they no longer recognize.....; and

WHEREAS, Gerald Crowder is survived by his father, Mr. Fred Crowder of Memphis, his sister, Marilyn Wannamaker of Memphis, and his niece, Allison Wannamaker of Los Angeles, California; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Crowder was an active alumnus of the University of Memphis, from where he graduated in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology; and

WHEREAS, he studied Juvenile Law at the University of Chicago, and Public Administration at the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, he obtained a Doctorate of Philosophy degree in Business Administration from Trinity College in 1999; and

WHEREAS, Gerald Crowder's unflagging desire to improve the lives of his fellow citizens is also illustrated by his laudable service as a teacher and guest lecturer at Trinity's College of Business and the Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, Gerald Crowder will always be remembered for his loving heart, strong character, selfless good works and unremitting dedication to country, state, friends, and family; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby pause to remember the indomitable spirit and bountiful life of Gerald L. Crowder, recalling fondly his commitment to public service and the greater good.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend our condolences to Mr. Crowder's family and many friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared with this final clause omitted from such copy.